

banquet. The next meeting is to be at South San Francisco on the first Monday in August.

WOOD C. BAKER, Secretary.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY.

The regular meeting of the Santa Cruz County Medical Society was held at the offices of Dr. A. W. Bixby in Watsonville Monday evening, August 5, 1907.

The following members were present: Drs. A. W. Bixby, E. E. Briggs, G. S. Easterday, J. A. McGuire, Guy Miller, S. T. Pope, E. E. Porter, S. C. Rodgers, J. M. York, P. K. Watters, F. H. Koepke.

General letter No. 13 from secretary of the state society was read. The secretary was instructed to order 50 copies of the "Great American Fraud," a pamphlet reprinting the articles which appeared in Collier's, from the A. M. A., to distribute among citizens of the county.

The subject of investigating illegal practitioners in the county was brought before the society. A general discussion followed, after which Dr. S. T. Pope and Dr. J. M. York were appointed by the chair to investigate and report at the next meeting.

Dr. S. C. Rodgers presented a clinical case of ankylosis of both hip joints in a boy nine years old. The case was discussed by members present and also examined with the X-rays.

It was decided to have a social meeting in Santa Cruz at the Casino on Saturday evening, September 7th, and all members were requested to bring their wives.

F. H. KOEPKE, Secretary.

PUBLICATIONS.

Manual of Diseases of the Eye. By Charles H. May, Chief of Clinic and Instructor in Ophthalmology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Medical Department, Columbia University, New York—1890-1903; Ophthalmic Surgeon to the City Hospitals, Randall's Island, New York; Consulting Ophthalmologist to the French Hospital, to the Gouverneur Hospital, and to the Red Cross Hospital, New York; Adjunct Ophthalmic Surgeon to Mt. Sinai Hospital, etc. Fifth edition revised with 362 original illustrations, with 22 plates, with 63 colored figures, 1907; \$2.00 net.

Whitman's Orthopedic Surgery. A treatise on Orthopedic Surgery. By Royal Whitman, M. D., Instructor in Orthopedic Surgery in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York; Chief of Orthopedic Department in Vanderbilt Clinic, New York. Third edition, revised and enlarged. Octavo, 900 pages, with 554 illustrations, mostly original. Cloth, \$5.50, net. Lea Brothers & Co., Philadelphia and New York, 1907.

The author has avowedly written this book for the student and the general practitioner. From the viewpoint of the orthopedic specialist it is in places unsatisfying. What has been written is always admirable, but there are many subjects upon which we would gladly hear more from so eminent an authority. Again and again where we had looked for illuminating discussions we find but the barest facts. A student's quiz compend could hardly be more terse; and we are forced to put down the book as far as ever from the solution of our problems. On the other hand we do not know where the student or the general practitioner could find a more complete, lucid, and in every way helpful discussion of joint tuberculosis, of distortions of the foot, of congenital dislocations of the hip,

or of the several other commoner conditions to which whole chapters are devoted.

The trend of orthopedic surgery of late years has been toward the prevention of deformity. This necessitates the early recognition by the general practitioner of the predisposing causes of deformity, of their significance and of the mechanical conditions involved, an idea which the author has kept prominently before the reader throughout the book.

The plans of treatment advised are directly within the reach of every one, and those which the author himself has proved to be efficient. Should a colleague ask us to select for him a treatise on orthopedic surgery, saying that he expected to be compelled to take care of his own cases, we would unhesitatingly recommend to him this book of Dr. Whitman's.

The first 108 pages of the book are devoted to the discussion of tuberculous disease of the spine. After considering the pathology, etiology, and symptoms in general, the examination of the several regions of the spine, beginning with the lumbar, and including with each its differential diagnosis, is taken up. How the history should be elicited and the physical signs recorded, is shown at length. Here and there throughout the book, Dr. Whitman is most happy in the way in which he expresses the broad principles governing treatment. We shall not hesitate to quote these observations as they seem germane to the purposes of this review. Speaking of the general principles of Mechanical Treatment, we read "As the ultimate deformity of Pott's disease is, in great degree, caused by the force of gravity acting on a weakened spine, the most effective form of treatment must be fixation in the horizontal position, for in this position the strain of use and the superincumbent weight can be removed completely." This is accomplished by placing the patient upon the modified Bradford frame with which and its adjustment the text deals minutely. He adds that horizontal fixation "is of course a treatment not complete in itself, since it must be supplemented by the usual supports when the erect attitude is again assumed. Its duration varies from six to eighteen months." "Personally," he adds, "I have never seen other than favorable results from this method of treatment"—nor, for that matter, have we.

Chapter II deals with the non-tuberculous affections of the spine from syphilis to injury of the sacroiliac articulations. Twenty-two affections are touched upon in as many pages which also include twelve illustrations. This was a disappointing chapter in the first edition of this book, which appeared seven years ago, and is so still. To take a single example, the caption "Tabetic Deformity of the Spine" is dismissed in three and a half lines. "In rare instances deformity of the spine, either posterior or lateral, appears as a complication of locomotor ataxia. Fifteen cases are recorded. The characteristics of this form of osteo-arthritis are described elsewhere." The "elsewhere" begins on page 290 where rather less than two pages are devoted to the whole subject of Charcot's joints. But two references are given, and no cognizance has been had apparently of the work of Kurt-Frank (Centralblatt für Grenzgebiete der Medizin u. Chirurgie Bd. VIII Nos. 15, 16, 17:—1904.) who from a literature of 74 references has collected 27 cases presenting unquestionably this condition. Four of them had come to autopsy. The fact that during the past year two of these cases came under our own observation and in the preceding year another, inclines us to accept Frank's contention that the condition is of commoner occurrence than is generally supposed, but masked by the other symptoms of tabes. Special interest attaches to Charcot's joints of the lower lumbar of the spine, because

of their objective clinical resemblance to spondylolisthesis, a condition for which they have been mistaken (Kronig).

Chapter III is devoted to a consideration of Lateral Curvature. Except for an added picture or two it is identical with the same chapter in the first edition. The last edition, like the first, gives in detail two excellent systems of muscle-building exercises. Forcible correction in plaster of paris jackets is touched upon, and the antiquated scoliosis press of Hoffa, an appliance which its inventor discarded nearly a decade ago for the Wullstein machine, is pictured. The deduction is inevitable that the enormous activity of orthopedic surgeons in the study of lateral curvature during the past six years, has, in Dr. Whitman's opinion, been barren of tangible results.

We dissent from this view. In this country the X-ray studies by Bohm of scolioses due to other skeletal asymmetries, of congenital origin, by Lovett in the mechanics of the normal and of the scoliotic spine and by Feiss on the influence of changes in equilibrium and asymmetrical tension on spinal distortions, is of the very first importance. While in Europe, Wullstein of Holle and Lange in Munich have devised efficient methods of treating different phases of this condition. We regret that the subject is too technical and space too limited to admit of our doing more than direct attention to the work of these eminent men.

Dr. Whitman's chapter contains all that the non-specialist student would care to read of theory, pathology and symptoms, and elaborates with his accustomed accuracy the kind of treatment a general practitioner could carry out if he gave himself diligently to it. But there are cases which require more skill than the general practitioner can give, and special methods of treatment for which he lacks the appropriate armamentarium. If these facts are recognized it will be better for both doctor and patient.

Chapter V is devoted to a general consideration of tuberculous disease of the bones and joints. It is on a plane with the chapters on tuberculosis of the spine and of the hip, perhaps the most illuminating twenty pages in the entire book. We do not apologize for making the following excerpts in full: "The tuberculin test, although of some importance from the negative standpoint, is of no particular value as establishing a diagnosis of joint disease, for the reason that tuberculous disease of the lymph glands is so common even among those whose joints are free from disease. For the same reason it is valueless as a test of practical cure." Instances are on record, however, in which a marked local reaction in the form of an exaggeration of the symptoms of joint inflammation followed the exhibition of a dose of tuberculin and cleared up an otherwise doubtful diagnosis.

The book contains no more important paragraph than the following: "From what has been stated of the causes of disease, it follows that the general condition should include, if possible, a change in the hygienic surroundings, relief from the danger of further infection, pure air and proper food. These are as essential in the treatment of tuberculosis of the bones as of other parts.

"The importance of the constitutional treatment of tuberculous disease, more particularly the proper environment in which the greater part of the day and even the night may be passed in the open air, can hardly be exaggerated." It is unfortunate that the printer's art does not admit of variations of emphasis as does the spoken word. Our own disposition would have been to print that paragraph in red ink and in heavy type—anything to attract attention to it and hold it there, for it con-

tains the secret of success or failure in the treatment of tubercular joint lesions.

A method of treating joint lesions and especially tuberculous ones that has of late years come rapidly into prominence is the passive congestion method of Bier. It is briefly considered in the book before us. After mentioning the technic, Whitman continues: "The action of the nervous or passive congestion is, according to Bier, as follows: 1. It increases the formation of fibrous tissue and induces hypertrophy of the bones. 2. It has a bactericidal action in infectious joint disease, notably tuberculosis. 3. It has an absorptive effect on the effused products of disease, and on new formations that check joint motion. 4. It relieves pain and lessens the activity of progressive joint disease."

A hundred pages are devoted to the discussion of "hip disease," this term, as the author hastens to say, being "now limited to tuberculous disease."

Starr on Nervous Diseases. Organic and Functional Diseases. By M. Allen Starr, M.D., Ph.D., LL.D., Professor of Neurology in the College of Physicians and Surgeons. New York; ex-President of the American Neurological Association and of the New York Neurological Society. Second edition, thoroughly revised. Octavo, 824 pages, with 282 engravings and 26 full-page plates. Cloth, \$6.00, net; leather, \$7.00 net. Lea Brothers & Co., Philadelphia and New York, 1907.

The first edition of this book dealt only with the organic diseases of the nervous system. The present edition treats in a lucid and helpful manner of the functional troubles as well. The diseases of the ductless glands such as acromegaly, myxedema and exophthalmic goitre have been omitted; also tetanus and the so-called trophic disorders. We doubt the advisability of these exclusions. These diseases, to be sure, are comprised in works upon general medicine, as the author says, but so are the diseases which Dr. Starr's book treats of and often very well handled, too, in Strumpell's book, for instance. A certain disproportion is noted between certain chapters. Neuritis occupies many pages, while to the chapter on syphilis of the nervous system only three are devoted. There is much to be found in the book in different places on the latter very important subject, but this particular chapter is very much inferior to that contained in Oppenheim's treatise.

It is needless to remark that localization, central and spinal, is fully described. In the therapeutic directions there is no suggestion of vitalism, nor does the author indulge a misleading optimism. This good sense is especially conspicuous in the chapters on hysteria and neurasthenia. We think the practitioner will be as satisfied with Dr. Starr's prescriptions as the nature of the diseases will permit.

We found no mention of cervical ribs, among the causes of disease of the trachial plexus. There are a number of misprints in the index and elsewhere. For Mill's Disease, for instance, the reference in the index is to page 512, but it is not to be found there.

The illustrations are abundant. There are perhaps more pictures after Golgi specimens than are necessary or useful, but many others have been judiciously reproduced from other works.

Insanity Cured by a New Treatment. Details of Twenty-one Cases. By C. W. Luckling, M. D., Birmingham, '07. Cornish Brothers, Ltd. Price 2 shillings, net.

"The insanity written of in this paper is entirely caused by dropped kidney." "The cause of the in-